



# Everyone's a Critic

The first national AIDS memorial

July 1, 2005 By Lucile Scott

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National memorials that strive for more than the blandly heroic tend to inflame Americans, and the first national AIDS memorial, set to grace a 12-acre grove in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park, is no exception. Big-name designers scoured 200 proposals before tapping one by New York architects Chloe Town and Jenette Kim that, so says Town, evokes a ravage-and-regrowth metaphor, using charred boards and carbon rods. But the true blaze roars among HIVers and critics. With the sponsoring National AIDS Memorial board reconvening June 8 for "further discussion," *POZ* searched for higher meaning.

**Chloe Town, memorial designer:** "The experience of walking through the poles and natural regrowth make it a living memorial."

**Paul Graham, San Francisco resident:** "This is definitely a poor choice. It doesn't reflect the figures and faces that the virus has killed. "

**Mark Jarombek, MIT architecture professor:** "The design abstracts a human biological problem. It could be about anything. Maybe it's even an evasion of AIDS."

**Thom Weyland, HIVer/memorial board member:** "We need to get on the national radar. Yes, it's scary and controversial. AIDS is controversial." —Lucile Scott

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